



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, California 95814

916/554-2700  
Fax 916/554-2900

For Immediate Release  
January 9, 2004

**VALLEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CREDIT CARD FRAUD**

*Defendant Defrauded Woman He Corresponded With From Prison*

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that NEIL DONALD CORROW, 64, of Lodi, California, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court to credit card fraud. The defendant also admitted to violating the terms of his supervised release imposed after he was convicted of similar federal charges in the State of Texas in 2001. Parole has been abolished in the federal criminal system, and CORROW will be required by law to serve at least 85 percent of the prison time imposed. Sentencing is scheduled for March 26, 2004, before the Hon. Garland E. Burrell, Jr., United States District judge.

As part of his guilty plea, CORROW admitted to defrauding a woman he began corresponding with while in prison in Beaumont, Texas. While in custody, the defendant conned the victim into helping him start a T-Shirt business by opening a checking account, getting permits, and applying for credit cards. CORROW also asked her to sign loan papers to purchase a truck for their business. The two were married after he was paroled in February 2002.

Between February 2002 and March 2003, CORROW opened credit cards in the victim's name without her permission, forged credit card convenience checks, and withdrew funds from her personal checking account. The defendant used the fraudulently obtained credit card to make unauthorized purchases at retailers, including national retailers such as Mervyn's, Long's Drug Stores and Wal-Mart. During this same time period, defendant CORROW forged the victim's name on checks, unlawfully cashed credit card convenience checks, and used her checks to pay off credit card debt, causing losses of approximately \$72,710.

The maximum sentence which the court can impose for the credit card fraud is 10 years incarceration, a \$250,000 fine, and a three-year period of supervised release. The defendant faces an additional 18 months in prison for the supervised release violations.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor with the assistance of the San Joaquin District Attorney's Office and the Lodi Police Department.

###